



Axminster Rural
Sidmouth Urban
Honiton Rural
Honiton Borough
Ottery St. Mary Urban
Seaton Urban

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health for 1966

No. 2 Area Devon

Medical Officer of Health—Dr. R. C. MacLeod

			Public Health Inspectors	Surveyors
Axminster Rural	...	...	L. H. White	F. J. Smith
Sidmouth Urban	...	...	S. T. Chard	T. H. Chambers
Honiton Rural...	...	...	J. D. Hopgood	J. D. Hopgood
Honiton Borough	...	...	A. J. C. Nex	A. J. C. Nex
Ottery St. Mary Urban...			C. W. Glover	C. W. Glover
Seaton Urban...	...	...	P. R. Bradley	P. R. Bradley

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICERS

for

No. 2 AREA — EAST DEVON

AXMINSTER RURAL	Dr. B. L. Finzel, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
SIDMOUTH URBAN	Dr. R. G. Michelmore, M.D., M.B., B.S., M.R.S.C., L.R.C.P.
HONITON RURAL	Dr. A. T. H. Glanvill, T.D., O.St.J., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., C.P.H.
HONITON BOROUGH	Dr. W. H. McBay, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.Obst., R.C.O.G., D.C.H.
OTTERY ST. MARY URBAN	Dr. J. F. N. Sidebotham, M.B., B. Chir.
SEATON URBAN	Dr. A. M. W. Coburn, M.B., Ch.B.

These doctors receive a small retainer and a sessional fee if called upon to
deputise for or assist the Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report

for No. 2 Area for 1966

comprising :—

AXMINSTER RURAL, SIDMOUTH URBAN,
HONITON RURAL, HONITON BOROUGH,
OTTERY ST. MARY URBAN, AND SEATON URBAN

This is the 10th Annual Report I have presented and for the first time my report for Sidmouth is included with those for the other five Districts of No. 2 Area. I shall, as in previous years, comment on services provided in the area by the County Council as well as on those provided by the District Councils.

Infectious Disease

The number of cases of infectious disease was 268 less than last year owing to a halving of the cases of measles. The cases of dysentery all occurred in one outbreak, and the food poisoning is commented on elsewhere.

1966

				Sidmouth Urban		Honiton Borough		Ottery St. Mary Urban		Seaton Urban		
				Axminster Rural		Honiton Rural						Total
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	...	...	...	0	0	5	32	0	0	0	0	37
Encephalitis	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	0	1	17	0	3	0	0	0	21
Gastro enteritis	...	...	...	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Measles	...	...	...	228	10	23	21	4	18	304		
Meningococcal infection				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia neonatorum				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	0	5	13	0	0	20		
Polio myelitis	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerpereal pyrexia	...			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	10	0	0	0	0	0	10		
Tuberculosis												
(non-respiratory)	...			0	4	0	0	0	0	4		
Tuberculosis (respiratory)				2	5	0	0	0	0	7		
Whooping Cough	...	...		10	0	1	1	0	0	12		
				258	20	51	67	7	18	421		

Diphtheria

Once again no cases have been reported. It is essential, however, that immunisation against this disease should continue, and all parents should ensure that their children are immunised. The valedictory comments on this matter by the retiring Chief Health Inspector for Sidmouth Urban District Council should be noted.

Food Poisoning

The 17 cases recorded as food poisoning occurring in Honiton Rural District, were in a troop of Girl Guides. The symptoms appeared on the second day of their stay at camp. These consisted of nausea and vomiting only. All the Guides except one were well the following day. There was no clue as to the food stuff involved—if food stuff it were—and the water supply was from the mains. No specimens were taken.

Two of the cases recorded in Ottery St. Mary District were *Salmonella typhimurium* (Phage type 29) infections, while the third was an infection with *Salmonella panama*. In this latter case the patient, a married woman, was very seriously ill. Neither her child nor her husband—a farm worker—were found to be infected, and the milk from the farm on which he worked was also found to be clear of infection.

The last case—in Sidmouth Urban District—was that of a Swedish student. The infecting organism was *Salmonella typhimurium* (Phage type 29); and, as with the others, the source of infection was not discovered.

Nine cases of *Salmonella* infection in animals—from whence of course it can easily spread to human beings—were reported, and I wish to express my thanks to the veterinary services for this co-operation.

Food Hygiene

Many visits to food handling premises were made during the year. There is no doubt that the public is becoming more conscious of the necessity for food hygiene and this aids us very much in our task. The standard continues to rise, but vigilance is required at all times.

Immunisation

The system whereby, with the co-operation of the County Medical Department, immunisation figures for the six districts covered by this Report can be compiled separately from those of the County as a whole, has been continued. The numbers inoculated are shown below :

	Primary		Booster	Total
Diphtheria	4		4	8
Diphtheria/Tetanus	3		107	110
Polio-myelitis	687	(27 incomplete)†	351	1038
Quadruple*	4		1	5
Smallpox	551	(1 incomplete)†	161	712
T.A.B.	1		—	1
T.A.B./Tet.	2		2	4
Tetanus	96	(12 incomplete)†	77	173
Triple**	598	(6 incomplete)†	373	971
	<hr/> 1,946		<hr/> 1,076	<hr/> 3,022

*Combined Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Polio-myelitis vaccines.

**Combined Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, and Tetanus vaccines.

†Most of those incomplete will be completed in 1967.

Polio-myelitis

No cases of polio-myelitis occurred during the year.

Dysentery

There was a small outbreak of Sonne dysentery in one town, and to a small extent in the surrounding district, beginning at the end of December 1965 and finishing at the end of February 1966. The total cases and suspected cases coming to my attention was 53, and of these 37 were confirmed bacteriologically.

The total number of specimens taken was 70. The case distribution week by week is shown below—

During week ended	Number of cases
31st December, 1965	1
7th January, 1966	2
14th January, 1966	1
21st January, 1966	6
28th January, 1966	8
4th February, 1966	13
11th February, 1966	4
25th February, 1966	2

When the initial cases were reported the schools were asked to emphasize the necessity of hand-washing, and to make sure that soap and paper towels were provided. Special attention was also given to the lavatories. The names of children absent with tummy trouble were shown to me daily. The siblings of those giving a positive bacteriological specimen or suspiciously ill were excluded from school until they had one negative specimen. The Health Inspectorate made 40 visits to obtain particulars and collect speci-

mens. Fifty visits were made to food handling premises in order to ensure that the possibility of the transmission of infection via these premises was minimized. The instructions to Managers of Food Catering establishments were as follows :

“There are a few cases of a mild form of Dysentery in the town, and it is therefore necessary, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, that hygiene in food handling premises should be of the highest possible standard.

“You are therefore requested to—

- “(1) Emphasize to your staff the absolute necessity of washing their hands after using the lavatory.
- “(2) Provide disposable paper towels in place of any roller or hand towels which may be in use at the moment.
- “(3) Inform your staff that they must report to you if they themselves, or any member of their families, have any symptoms of bowel infection : (in the case of dysentery this is a legal requirement). You must then inform me.
- “(4) Reduce to a minimum the handling of unwrapped food and the exposure of such food.”

These simple measures seem to have had just as great, or as little, effect on the course of the outbreak as the large scale measures reported as put into operation in other outbreaks.

Tuberculosis

Eleven cases (seven respiratory) were confirmed. Four of the five male respiratory cases were over 65 and one aged 51. One of the females was aged 53 and the other 18. This last was a laundry worker and all her co-workers were X-rayed with negative results.

In addition to new infections four cases moved into the area from elsewhere, and one case moved out.

The Heaf testing of school children as detailed in previous Reports continues.

B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis is offered to children in all schools, both State and private, throughout the area, and those found to be Heaf test negative are vaccinated. The percentage of children of 13 years of age and upwards found during the year to be Heaf positive, that is to have had some exposure to tuberculosis, was around 30%. None actually had the disease.

Brucellosis

In the latter part of the year the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food announced a scheme for the eradication of Brucellosis in cattle. The scheme in the initial stages is to be voluntary in character, will include no special arrangements for dealing with those producers who sell raw milk to the public, and does not include any compulsory use of S.19 vaccine. Progress in eliminating

the disease in cattle, and consequently in human beings, is therefore likely to be slow. No doubt improvements in the scheme will be effected as it goes along, and I am sure that District Councils in East Devon will not be slow in making suggestions to the Ministry as time goes on.

Anthrax

*Under the provision of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950—
Anthrax Order, 1938*

No cases of anthrax were notified.

An efficient vaccine against anthrax is now available and the use of it will be advised for persons working in appropriate establishments.

International Certificates of Vaccination

When completed by the medical practitioners these certificates must be authenticated by the local Medical Officer of Health.

Number authenticated during the year shown below :

Month				Smallpox	T,A,B.	Cholera	Polio	Total
January	...	...	...	40	2	14	—	56
February	...	...	...	26	2	11	—	39
March	...	...	...	37	1	8	—	46
April	...	...	...	31	—	6	—	37
May	...	...	...	198	—	6	—	204
June	...	...	...	214	3	3	2	222
July	...	...	...	154	4	11	1	170
August	...	...	...	151	1	3	—	155
September	...	...	...	28	1	11	—	40
October	...	...	...	20	—	1	—	21
November	...	...	...	26	—	5	—	31
December	...	...	...	26	2	6	—	34
				951	16	85	3	1,055

There was 1 Certificate of Exemption.

Cancer

It should be noted that the figures for Sidmouth are now included in this table. There has been no significant change over the last few years either in the deaths from cancer of the lungs and bronchus or in the total cancer deaths. As the number of elderly persons in the population increases an increase in the number of deaths from cancer must be expected.

Lungs & Bronchus							All Types including Lungs & Bronchus							
1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	
Axminster Rural—Population 14,890														
6	4	9	13	7	9	12	36	41	44	42	26	41	39	
Sidmouth Urban—Population 11,460														
5	9	8	12	9	6	7	34	33	47	52	40	34	45	
Honiton Rural—Population 7,160														
3	2	3	0	2	2	6	14	16	16	10	23	14	20	
Honiton Borough—Population 5,110														
0	2	1	1	1	0	1	8	8	5	11	15	10	10	
Ottery St. Mary—Population 4,800														
1	1	1	3	1	1	2	12	10	14	12	15	10	14	
Seaton Urban—Population 3,610														
2	3	4	3	0	4	3	9	14	16	10	16	16	20	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
17	21	26	32	20	22	31	113	122	142	137	135	125	148	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

Welfare of Old People

No action was required under the National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47, but many visits were made to elderly persons in need of care and attention. In some cases admission to hospital was arranged, in others admission to Welfare Homes, and in yet others the local supportive services or relations were able to improve conditions to the extent that the elderly person was enabled to continue living at home.

There is no doubt that a unified service is required for dealing with elderly persons in need of care and attention, and that any pretensions by any of the present separate services to have the whole answer to the problems of such persons is not only ludicrous but against the best interests of the elderly.

The Meals-on-Wheels Service in Axminster, Honiton, Ottery St. Mary, Seaton, and Sidmouth continues to be much needed and much appreciated. In the Axminster area 1,050 meals were served; in the Sidmouth area 3,705; in the Honiton area 1,655; in the Ottery St. Mary area 2,144; and in the Seaton area 1,426. During the year the number of days each week when the Meals-on-Wheels Service at Seaton provides dinners has been increased from two to four.

The full-time Chiropodists held clinics at Axminster, Beer, Branscombe, Colyton, Honiton, Ottery St. Mary, Seaton, and Sidmouth throughout the year.

Hospitals

There are four hospitals in the area—

- (1) *Axminster*. Accommodation is as follows: 30 beds for general medical and minor surgical cases including one private and one amenity bed.
- (2) *Honiton*. Accommodation is as follows: 153 beds in all. 104 chronic sick, 26 welfare, 7 maternity, and 16 acute medical and minor surgical.

- (3) *Ottery St. Mary.* Accommodation is as follows : 23 beds in all. 19 general medical and minor surgical and 4 chronic sick.
- (4) *Sidmouth.* Accommodation is as follows : 34 beds in all. 4 maternity, 2 private, and 28 general.

Cases of infectious disease from the area go to Whipton Isolation Hospital. The Resident Physician and his staff have been most helpful at all times.

Laboratory Facilities

Co-operation between the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter and the Public Health Department has been close.

Child Welfare Clinics

Child Welfare Clinics are held at Axminster, Colyton, Honiton, Ottery St. Mary, Seaton, Sidford, and Sidmouth. The number of sessions held and the attendances were as follows :—

Axminster

- Number of sessions held—27
- Total number of attendances (babies)—386
- Total number of attendances (toddlers)—153

Colyton

- Number of sessions held—24
- Total number of attendances (babies)—199
- Total number of attendances (toddlers)—83

Honiton

- Number of sessions held—46
- Total number of attendances (babies)—492
- Total number of attendances (toddlers)—217

Ottery St. Mary

- Number of sessions held—24
- Total number of attendances (babies)—589
- Total number of attendances (toddlers)—917

Seaton

- Number of sessions held—24
- Total number of attendances (babies)—405
- Total number of attendances (toddlers)—90

Sidford

- Number of sessions held—23
- Total number of attendances (babies)—200
- Total number of attendances (toddlers)—41

Sidmouth

- Number of sessions held—50
- Total number of attendances (babies)—1,438
- Total number of attendances (toddlers)—285

Water Supplies

Improvements to the water supply steadily continue, though with so many small sources difficulties are bound to arise from time to time. No water borne disease has occurred. Samples from the East Devon Water Board's supplies are examined chemically by

the Board's chemist and bacteriologist, and while bacteriological examinations are done by him according to a sampling scheme in conformity with the World Health Organization recommendations, samples are also submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for independent assessment. Water Board personnel are medically examined on appointment, and in the case of all outdoor staff a Widal Test is included. This is repeated at intervals, but as a routine precaution all medical certificates for such personnel are scrutinised by the M.O.H., who is also M.O. to the Board, and where there is any indication of gastro intestinal upset or other suspicious symptom further inquiries are made.

The main works of the East Devon Water Board in No. 2 Area are as follows—

Holyford—Near Seaton

Small impounding reservoir

Filtration and chlorination—manned works and pumping station.

Greatwell—Near Ottery St. Mary

Boreholes in red sandstone

Automatic pumping station

Chlorination.

Wilmington—Near Honiton

Greensand springs

Aeration process, releases free carbon dioxide content, chlorination; pH correction

Automatically controlled works and pumps.

Sidmouth—Sidford and Byes Lane

Bores in sandstone and marl

Chlorination

Automatically controlled pumps.

Pinhay—Near Lyme Regis

Springs in chalk

Chlorination

Automatically controlled pumps.

Hook—Near Chard

Greensand springs

Chlorination

Automatically controlled pumps.

During the year the old Colyton water supply was turned over to standby duty only, and Wilmington water is now being fed into the Colyton water distribution system.

The West Somerset Water Board made application to the River Authority for permission to increase their take from the River Otter by 75m gallons per year to a new maximum of 275m gallons. This proposal was opposed by many interested parties including East Devon Water Board, and was ultimately turned down by the River Authority.

Other aspects of the water supply position are commented on in the District Reports.

Outworkers

Under the provisions relating to the Outworkers in the Factories Act, 1937, it is necessary for Councils in whose area there are factories or other establishments employing Outworkers to inform the Medical Officer of Health of the district where the Outworkers live of the fact of their employment.

The number of Outworkers seems to be declining. No problem has arisen in connection with such employment during the year.

Mass Radiography

The Service continued the scheme started in 1965 whereby routine fortnightly visits were made to fixed sites in Sidmouth and Honiton. The advantages of this are obvious, although attendance for those in the eastern part of the area is sometimes not so easy. The numbers examined are shown below—

Sidmouth	...	...	...	...	...	558
Honiton	...	...	...	...	...	261
Sidford (special visit)	...	...	...	...	...	29
Total						848

The following conditions were discovered—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis :

(a) Requiring treatment	...	...	...	1
(b) Requiring observation	...	...	...	1
(c) Inactive cases	...	...	...	20

Other conditions :

Bronchial carcinoma	...	...	...	3
Non-malignant neoplasms	...	...	...	2
Cardio-Vascular disease—acquired	...	...	...	11
Bronchiectasis	...	...	...	3
Pulmonary infections, including all types of	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia and Fungus infections	...	...	...	7
Bronchitis and emphysema	...	...	...	23
Others of no clinical significance	...	...	...	15

Total ... 86

General

This report gives an idea of the amount and variety of work done in the public health field at District level, and, of course, nothing like the whole range of problems involved can be discussed in a few pages. There is a constant exchange of ideas and information between the six Districts, and meetings of the Health Inspectors under the chairmanship of the M.O.H. are held to discuss policy. With so much new legislation, and with so many new questions to be resolved, such as those associated with factory farming, it is most important that neighbouring districts should be aware of each others activities and should, as far as possible, pursue similar policies.

R. C. MacLEOD,
Medical Officer of Health.

AXMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT

Area	52,135 acres
Population	14,890
Number of Parishes	14
Rateable Value	£538,527
Penny Rate produces ...	£2,120
General Rate levied	10/3d.

Deaths

1965	81 males, 82 females ...	163
	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	10.9
	Comparability factor ...	0.75
	Standardised death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	8.2
1966	103 males, 79 females ...	182
	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	14.9
	Comparability factor ...	0.77
	Standardised death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	11.5

Live Births

1965	93 males, 78 females ...	171
	11 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of ...	171
	Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	11.42
	Comparability factor ...	1.30
	Standardised birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	14.8
	Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	6.4
1966	107 males, 81 females ...	188
	14 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of ...	188
	Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	12.6
	Comparability factor ...	1.31
	Standardised birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	16.5
	Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	7.4

Still Births

1965	2 still births were registered (0 illegitimate) ...	2
	Total live and still births ...	173
	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	11.6
1966	2 still births were registered (0 illegitimate) ...	2
	Total live and still births ...	190
	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	10.5

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

1965	3 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	3
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	17.5
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	18.75
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	nil
1966	5 deaths were registered (1 illegitimate)	...	...	...	5
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	26.6
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	21.3
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	71.4

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1965	0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0
	Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	nil
	Maternal deaths	...	...	...	...	nil
1966	3 deaths were registered (1 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	3
	Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	15.9
	Maternal deaths	...	...	...	...	nil

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age

1965	0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0
	Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	nil
	Peri-natal mortality rate	...	...	...	...	nil
1966	3 deaths were registered (1 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	3
	Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	15.9
	Peri-natal mortality rate	...	...	...	...	26.3

Deaths

The chief causes were :

	1965	1966
Pulmonary Sarcoidosis	1	0
Other infective and parasitic disease	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	12
Malignant neoplasm, breast	5	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	21	19
Diabetes	0	1
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	31	24
Coronary disease, angina	31	41
Hypertension with heart disease	5	6
Other heart disease	15	19
Other circulatory disease	11	4
Influenza	0	5
Pneumonia	6	3
Bronchitis	3	10
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0

Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	1	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	2	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	1	2
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	6	12
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	0	2
All other accidents	...	...	...	1	6
Suicide	...	...	...	3	1
				<hr/>	<hr/>
				164	182
				<hr/>	<hr/>

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector

Water Supplies

East Devon Water Board. During the year, bi-monthly sampling continued from those points on the Board's main which cover the 14 parish areas within the district. Examination indicated that the supplies were most satisfactory.

Private Water Undertakings. The following are the only two in the district and they are not subject to treatment or chlorination. They were also examined bi-monthly.

(a) Axmouth (Stedcombe Estate) Supply—Class I.

(b) Combyne Supply—This supply showed a variety of results that called for remedial measures in the collection areas and eventually resulted in one main spring being completely eliminated. The situation is being kept under careful review.

Sewerage

The new Works embodying Axminster and Kilminster are now functioning although there is still a certain amount of work to be completed. The schemes for Dalwood and Membury have at last reached the stage of the acceptance of tenders and the work will start early in 1967.

Public Conveniences

No progress has been made during the year on the erection of the proposed conveniences at Axminster, although it is hoped that they will be started in the forthcoming financial year. In my opinion there is a special need for these conveniences at Axminster.

General Inspections and Visits

General Sanitation

Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	14
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	92
Stables, Piggeries and Cow Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	35
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	248
Caravans, Tents, Vans and Sheds (Sites)	...	...	...	...	...	29
Litter	...	...	...	...	...	4

Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	31
Animal Boarding Establishments	...	...	...	...	8
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	1
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	24
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	161
Rats & Mice (Prevention of Damage by Pests Act)	...	...	...	...	30
Noise	...	...	...	...	1
Shops and Offices Act—Inspections	...	...	...	...	2
Shops and Offices Act—Visits	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	24
Petroleum—Inspections and Visits	...	...	...	...	29
Explosives—Visits	...	...	...	...	1

Housing

Under Public Health Acts—					
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	3
Under Housing Acts—					
Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	12
Visits paid to above houses	109

Infectious Diseases

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	2
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Meat and Food Inspections

Inspection of Meat					
Visits to Slaughterhouse	2
Total Meat Inspection Visits	...	...	...	...	114
Knackers Yard	...	...	...	...	11
Visits in connection with—					
Water sampling	...	...	...	...	55
Condemnation of food	...	...	...	...	13

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

1. Number of premises registered under Section 16 :

	Number in area	Number of inspections
(a) Manufacture of Sausages	... 10	—
(b) Sale of Ice-Cream only (pre-packed)	... 83	4
(c) Fish Frying	... 3	—

2. Number of Food Premises :

Type	No. in area	Fitted to comply with Reg. 16	Reg. 19 applies	Fitted to comply with Reg. 19	No. of Inspections
(a) Bakeries	8	8	8	8	1
(b) Beach Stalls	3	3	3	3	—
(c) Butchers	11	11	11	11	3

(d) Canteens (works and school)	23	23	23	23	—
(e) Clubs, Licensed premises,					
hotels	55	42	55	55	—
(f) Confectioners	14	14	—	—	—
(g) Milk Distributors, Dairies ...	4	4	4	4	1
(h) Fishmongers, Poulterers ...	4	4	4	4	2
(i) Greengrocers, Fruiterers ...	8	6	8	6	—
(j) Grocers	50	45	31	31	8
(k) Market Stalls	5	—	—	—	10
(l) Pannier Market	1	—	—	—	—
(m) Restaurants, Cafes	18	18	18	18	—

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1966 (Markets, Stalls, Delivery Vans)

In connection with these new Regulations which come into force on 1st January, 1967, 36 visits have been carried out.

3. It has not been possible to form any food guild within the area.

4. Disposal of condemned foods :

(a) Tinned Food—by incineration.

(b) Meat—by incineration.

During the year the following was condemned—

Tinned Meat 69lb. 12oz. Tinned Vegetables 2lb. 5oz.

Tinned Fish — 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ oz. Tinned Fruit 25lb. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

Chilled or Frozen

Fish 3lb. 4oz.

Also the numerous contents of a deep freeze container, spoiled due to a mechanical defect, were condemned during the year.

No action has been necessary with regard to the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, as no ice-cream is manufactured in this district.

Food Poisoning

There were no cases of food poisoning during the year.

Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963

Slaughtering continued at Axminster. Thirteen slaughtermen are licensed in the district under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958. 100% inspection is carried out and all meat stamped as laid down in the Regulations.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part :

	Cattle	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	159	814	8
<i>All Disease except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis :</i>			
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part was condemned	6	2	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	3.85 %	.37 %	—
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>			
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part was condemned	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis :</i>	—	—	—

Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957

One licence is in force.

Poultry Dressing and Packing Station at Chardstock

General surveillance has been carried out during the year and arrangements are now being put into operation so that statistics will be available showing the total number and types of birds processed, and percentage and weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption. Lack of staff does not allow of 100% inspection.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Refuse disposal has continued at Kilmington and the tip capacity should last until about April 1967 when it is proposed to form a new tip at Smitters Pit, which should last 18 months to two years.

There is a growing urgency for a long term disposal site strategically placed.

Litter Act, 1958

Litter receptacles at lay-bys continue to be regularly emptied during refuse collection. Extra collections were made twice a week from lay-bys on County and main roads during the months June to September inclusive and the cost has been met by the County Council.

Public Health Problems of Intensive Farming

The rapid development of methods of intensive farming, involving the use of less labour and land than has hitherto been necessary, is now more obvious. The trend is considered inevitable and unless checked by law will raise many problems in the future.

There is an urgent need for a "Code of Practice" which should be prepared by the appropriate Ministries covering all aspects of these rural industries.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949—Rodent Control

The Rodent Operator, due to illness, did not operate for most of the year, during which time private firms assisted. Eventual retirement resulted in the appointment of a fresh operator in October and he has been trained in the necessary work. During the year the following premises were inspected :

Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	24
Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	...	...	...	...	...	204
All other (including business premises)	...	...	...	...	...	168
Agricultural	...	...	...	...	...	127

Test baiting and a maintenance treatment was carried out in November to Council's sewerage systems at Axminster, Axmouth, Beer, Colyton, Colyford and Stockland, and services were also carried out to the Council's sewerage treatment plants. Private treatments were resumed once more and the Council's refuse dump systematically treated.

Petroleum

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936

Petroleum (Mixtures) Orders, 1929

The inspection and annual licensing of all statutory installations covering 66 storage sites for petrol and 4 for petroleum mixtures was dealt with.

During the year three sites were developed.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

Four establishments have been relicensed, providing adequate and satisfactory accommodation for the boarding of 49 dogs and 15 cats. Re-visits have shown that they have been maintained and well run.

Factories Act, 1961

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	6	2	—
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	73	21	2
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	9	8	2
Totals	88	31	4

Sections 133 and 134—Outworkers

Nature of work	Section 133 No. of outworkers in August list re-quired by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Section 134 No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecu-tions
Wearing apparel	10	—	—	—	—	—
Brush making	4	—	—	—	—	—

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

It has been a most disappointing year with regard to work under the above Act. When the last Annual Report was written I said that I hoped the work of general inspections would be completed in 1966. Owing to pressure of other work, however, very few inspections were made and inspection of some premises, mainly offices, is incomplete. Some of these are of only recent construction, and it is known that a few others have been improved to comply with the Act.

One very minor accident was reported during the year but no investigation was necessary. The ensuing year will see the completion of the general inspection of premises.

TABLE A—Registration and General Inspections

TOTALS	...	...	—	123	2
Offices	.....	...	...	28	—
Retail Shops	...	...	...	74	2
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses			—	2	—
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens			—	18	—
Fuel storage depots	...	...	—	1	—
(1)			(2)	(3)	(4)
Class of Premises			Number of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year

TABLE B—Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered premises—6.

TABLE C—Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises or workplace

Class of workplace (1)	No. of persons employed (2)
Offices	158
Retail Shops	275
Wholesale departments, Warehouses	19
Catering Establishments open to the public	101
Canteens	—
Fuel Storage Depots	9
Total	562
Total Males	246
Total Females	316

Caravans and Camping

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

In 1966 there were in use at peak of season :

- 36 Residential Caravans
- 406 Static Holiday Caravans
- 28 Touring Caravans
- 48 Organised Tents
- 235 Casual Tents
- 18 Motorised—e.g. Dormobile
- 1 Holiday Chalet.

Routine inspection during the season was carried out at the five main licensed sites, besides the eleven individual sites also licensed.

There were six sites issued with exemption certificates under the above Act. These sites were not extensively used.

Housing Act, 1957

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Total number of dwelling houses demolished | 7 |
| 2. Total number of dwelling houses closed | 1 |
| 3. Total number of dwelling houses informally closed | nil |
| 4. Total number of houses rendered fit by formal notice | 6 |
| 5. Total number of houses rendered fit by informal notice | 4 |

Rural Housing Survey

Arising from 296 Official Searches, 15 properties were revealed in the lower categories. Owners availed themselves of the information regarding the defects and were encouraged, sometimes by Improvement Grant, to raise the condition of the property to a higher category.

Improvement Grants

During the year 12 Discretionary Grants were approved, involving grants amounting to £3,243. Twenty-two Standard Grants were also approved involving maximum grant value of £3,554.

The total number of grant applications dealt with up to the 31st of December, 1966, by the Surveyor's Department, now totals 487 involving a total value of work of £94,856.

Explosives

During the year the administrative work in connection with the Explosive Acts, 1875 and 1923, was carried out.

The number licensed was :

(a) for the keeping of Mixed Explosives ...	...	16
(b) for the keeping of Cartridges ...	...	3
(c) for the keeping of Gunpowder ...	...	3

Rent Act, 1957

One application for cancellation of a Certificate of Disrepair was dealt with and issued during the year.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

One dealer operating from a store and two itinerant collectors are registered.

Housing

Council

At the end of the year the Housing Department of the Council had 1,179 dwellings in various parts of the district and a further 25 under construction.

A further Grouped Dwellings Scheme for Aged Persons was completed at Kilmington, making a total of five sites with a Resident Warden in attendance. Close co-operation with the County Welfare Department has resulted in the satisfactory re-housing of several elderly persons and homeless families.

During the year the Council recommended making advances to suitable applicants for the purchase of properties for owner occupation.

Staff

Once again I would like to express my thanks to Mr. Cleevely and Miss Urquhart for their most able assistance during the year.

L. H. WHITE, M.R.S.H.,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT

Area	11,475 acres
Population	11,460
Rateable Value	£598,526
Penny Rate produces	£2,418
General Rate levied	12/1d.

Deaths

1965	100 males, 114 females	...	...	...	...	214
	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	19.2
	Comparability factor	...	...	...	...	0.41
	Standardised death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	...	...	...	7.9
1966	117 males, 134 females	...	...	...	...	251
	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	21.9
	Comparability factor	...	...	...	...	0.44
	Standardised death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	9.6

Live Births

1965	56 males, 56 females	...	...	...	...	112
	11 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of	...	...	...	...	112
	Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	10.1
	Comparability factor	...	...	...	...	1.77
	Standardised birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	17.8
	Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	...	...	...	9.8
1966	64 males, 41 females	...	...	...	...	105
	9 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of	...	...	...	...	105
	Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	9.2
	Comparability factor	...	...	...	...	1.77
	Standardised birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	16.2
	Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	...	...	...	8.6

Still Births

1965	3 still births were registered	...	...	...	...	3
	Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	115
	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	26.1
1966	1 still birth was registered	...	...	...	...	1
	Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	106
	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	9.4

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

1965	3 deaths were registered (1 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	3
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	26.8
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	19.8
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	90.9
1966	3 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	3
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	28.6
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	31.2
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	nil

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1965	3 deaths were registered (1 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	3
	Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	26.8
	Maternal deaths	...	...	...	...	nil
1966	3 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	3
	Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	28.6
	Maternal deaths	...	...	...	...	1

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age

1965	2 deaths were registered (1 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	2
	Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	17.9
	Peri-natal mortality rate	...	...	...	...	43.5
1966	3 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	3
	Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	28.6
	Peri-natal mortality rate	...	...	...	...	37.7

Deaths

The chief causes of death were :

	1965	1966
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	0	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	7
Malignant neoplasm, breast	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	23	29
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	1
Diabetes	0	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	35	40
Coronary disease, angina	51	51
Hypertension with heart disease	3	2
Other heart disease	30	29
Other circulatory disease	19	21
Influenza	0	3
Pneumonia	12	6
Bronchitis	7	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	4
Nephritis and nephrosis	0	4
Hyperlasia of prostate	2	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	1
Congenital malformations	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	16
Accidents (other than motor vehicle accidents) ...	6	5
Suicide	0	4
	—	—
	214	251
	—	—

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector

Water Supplies

Public Supplies

The East Devon Water Board continues to be responsible for all public supplies and the following extract from the report of the Engineer to the Board shows the work carried out in the district in 1966—

“During the year there has been no restriction on supply. The Board’s mains have been extended to replace unsatisfactory private sources in the Bowd, Stowford, Bulverton and Peak Hill areas of Sidmouth.

“The rather corrosive spring water from the Board’s source at Coreway has been replaced by re-pumping borehole water from the Core Hill Reservoir.

“Arrangements have also been made, involving mainlaying and pumping, so that the unsatisfactory pressures at the higher parts of Salcombe Hill and at Sidbury Hill have been greatly improved.

“Chlorination measures on the Sidmouth spring sources have similarly been improved and simple chlorination plant has been installed to treat the rather unsatisfactory spring source at Bulverton, pending an alternative supply being provided.

“The programme of sampling for bacteriological and chemical examination has been brought into line with the European Standards of the World Health Organisation, the work being shared between the laboratory of the Board’s own Chemist and Bacteriologist and the Public Health Laboratory Service.

“Attention has been given to the periodical cleaning out of water mains by the use of plastic foam swabs or in difficult cases the scraping of hard encrustation by power-driven rodded tools. By these measures it has been possible to clear up many long-standing complaints of discolouration in the water supply.”

The previously approved scheme for bringing mains water to the Greenway and Cutler’s Hill area (Stowford), as mentioned in the Water Board Engineer’s report, was held up during the summer because of the financial “freeze.”

Private Supplies

Harcombe.—There are four small supplies in the village, the main one being from a spring which serves eight houses. This was satisfactory during the year.

Fortescue.—The reservoir has a capacity of 7,000 gallons and the spring yield is approximately 4,000 gallons per day. The supply is satisfactory but, as stated in previous annual reports, the yield is sufficient only for the thirty-nine properties connected.

Sidbury.—During the year part of the Sidbury Manor Estate supply was connected to the East Devon Water Board's main. The work to supply the village involved laying a loop main in Church Street and a three-inch main in Buckley Road. Eventually the whole of the water supply to the village will be taken over by the East Devon Water Board.

Other Private Supplies.—Many farms and other properties in the outlying areas are supplied by their own springs—see Appendix 'A.'

Sewerage

The detailed levelling mentioned in last year's report was completed by the Surveyor's Department, involving the checking of the existing system and levelling on the proposed routes of new sewers. This work was finished and the final plans prepared, together with amended calculations, towards the end of the year, and the detailed scheme will be submitted in 1967.

Preliminary investigations were commenced in connection with new sewage disposal works for Salcombe Regis.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no pasteurisation plants in the district and no samples of liquid egg were taken for the Alpha Amylase test.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Appendix 'B' contains a list of food premises and also shows the number of inspections.

During the year coded lists of premises were prepared under the following headings—

- Bakers
- Butchers
- Fishmongers
- General Provisions
- Greengrocers and Fruiterers
- Hotels and Restaurants.

The lists contain brief comments against all the premises, each of which has been given a reference number to enable reports to be made to the Public Health Committee without naming the premises. This method was first started some ten years ago but had to be discontinued when the department was without a qualified assistant for some five years.

Food Hygiene (Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

These Regulations, which came into force on the 1st of January, 1967, revoked the relevant provisions in the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations of 1960, but no inspections were made during 1966.

Bakers and Confectioners

One small long-established bakery and shop was closed during the year. Deterioration had occurred for several years prior to this, mainly due to the age of the occupier. The premises have now been converted to a butcher's shop.

Inspections of other premises revealed that they were generally satisfactory.

Butchers and Meat Suppliers

Meat supplied in the Sidmouth district comes either from the Exeter City Abattoir or a private slaughterhouse at Honiton, and these arrangements appear to be satisfactory. At the end of the year there were thirteen butchers' shops and one market stall, all the shops being registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the manufacture of preserved, etc. food.

Fishmongers

At the 31st of December, 1966, there were three wet fish shops, one with a fruit and vegetable section, and three mobile fishmongers. The latter, together with other similar vans, will be affected to some extent by the new Food Hygiene (Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, to which reference has already been made.

There are two fish and chip shops, one of which has very cramped and restricted food preparation and kitchen facilities. Frequent visits are made to these premises to try to improve the standard. The other is well run, properly maintained, and is satisfactory.

Greengrocers and Fruiterers

There are eight shops strictly confined to this business but, as previously reported, many general shops sell fruit and vegetables. Generally conditions are satisfactory.

General Provisions

Most premises inspected were satisfactory. It is always necessary to keep a watch on these food shops and there is no substitute for regular inspection.

Hotels, Restaurants and Cafes

Appendix 'B' shows the number of properties together with the number of visits to these premises during the year. Steady progress has been made in raising the standards of some premises. In one case difficulty was found with a proprietor who was unco-operative although his premises were of a reasonable standard, but most proprietors are only too willing to co-operate with the Public Health Department.

Ice-Cream

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act was thirty-four at the 31st of December, 1966. With the exception of one, which has a soft ice-cream machine, all these premises sell pre-packed ice-cream.

It was reported last year that difficulties had arisen in the case of the soft ice-cream machine, some samples taken having been below standard, but these difficulties have now been overcome.

The number of samples taken during the year and the results are shown below—

Number of Samples	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
31	19	11	—	1

An investigation concerning the sample which fell in Grade 4 showed that this was due to inadequate sterilisation of the serving utensils.

Milk and Dairies

The five premises registered as dairies were satisfactory during the year. Pasteurised milk sold in the district is supplied by Messrs. Hammetts Dairies of Exeter and distributed through the local depot, which also distributes T.T. milk from the producers in the area.

Unsound Food

Appendix 'B' shows the amount of unsound food condemned during the year. Disposal is by burying at the refuse tip.

Housing

Slum Clearance

Virtually the whole of the original slum clearance programme has now been completed, but owing to the "blight" over the Eastern Town area, arising from delay in settling the redevelopment proposals, many of the older properties have been deteriorating due to lack of maintenance. Some of these have been acquired by the Council during the year in anticipation of redevelopment proposals.

Improvement Grants

The Public Health Inspector is the officer responsible for Improvement Grants. The revised booklet published in 1966, and distributed free, has proved most useful not only to private individuals seeking a Grant but to all those concerned with the work, such as architects, surveyors, builders, etc.

The policy of the Council has been to recondition all their pre-war houses to bring them up to modern standards, and to this end Improvement Grants have been made available from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The number of houses dealt with up to the end of the year under review is shown in Appendix 'C.'

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

During 1966 a few outstanding general inspections were completed and “follow up” visits made to premises previously inspected where contraventions of the Act had been noted. Action taken was invariably informal and employers were generally co-operative in taking action to rectify contraventions. The Act has certainly brought about an improvement in working conditions and amenities in many premises.

A summary of the premises registered under the Act and the number of visits made during 1966 is contained in Appendix ‘D.’

Caravans

The number of licensed sites in the district is three, as follows :

	Number of Caravans covered by Licence				
Dunscombe Manor Farm, Salcombe Regis	58
Thorn Farm	50
Slade Farm	4

Regular visits were made to all sites during the year and generally conditions were quite satisfactory. It was noted that at one site during the peak of the season the number of caravans for which it was licensed had been exceeded and the site operator was warned.

Public Conveniences

The employment of a female attendant on a full-time basis, started three years ago, is working satisfactorily. During the winter months she is engaged on cleaning, and in the summer she provides attendance only, the male staff carrying out the cleaning. It is always difficult for a town like Sidmouth, which nearly doubles its population in the summer, to make the necessary staff adjustments to maintain its standards throughout the year, but this seems to have been achieved.

The free washing and hot water facilities which have been provided for the past two years are much appreciated by the public, and a fairly high standard has been maintained. The occasional outburst of vandalism occurs, but we do not seem to have so many “maladjusted” types as in many towns.

The maintenance of the conveniences is the responsibility of the Surveyor, whilst the cleaning is undertaken by the Public Health Department—an arrangement which cannot possibly work but does!—we receive letters to prove this.

Air Pollution

The apparatus at the Council's Highways Depot for measuring smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere is still functioning, daily readings being made and tabulated for submission to the Warren Spring Laboratory. As observed previously, there does not appear to have been any increase in smoke density despite further building in the vicinity of the site. This "static" position seems to be related to the modern trend for dispensing with solid fuel for heating in new houses.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949—Rodent Control

Following notifications of infestation by rats or mice, 158 properties were surveyed during the year of which 56 required treatment. Apart from one case (a piggery), infestations were light and no problems arose in dealing with them. A test baiting of the sewer system early in the year provided negative results, "no takes" being recorded at all manholes baited.

Refuse Disposal

The refuse tip at Knapp Copse is still being used by the following Authorities—

Sidmouth Urban District Council

Honiton Borough Council

Honiton Rural District Council

Seaton Urban District Council

with excellent results. During the year the first section of the tip was finished off at approximately its ultimate level and preparations were made to commence new tipping to the east of this section, which involved piping in a further length of stream and the construction of a new shute. The area now being made available will last for a number of years, and in the meantime the first section will be covered with a considerable depth of debris arising from building works and estate development and will be finished with a thick layer of top soil which will be seeded with grass.

Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order, 1957

The four licensed plants in the district were inspected regularly. During one routine visit it was noted that waste food had not been boiled, contrary to the provisions of the Order. The owner was warned and the matter reported to the Council who took a serious view of the case. Subsequent visits to the premises, however, have shown that the occupier is now complying with the Order. The other premises were found to be satisfactory.

Petroleum

The Public Health Inspector is the authorised Petroleum Inspector.

At the 31st of December, 1966, there were twenty-nine licensed premises in the district and during the year nineteen old underground tanks were due for test. These were subjected to ullage tests and two were suspect. As a result the owner expedited his plans for rebuilding his garage and installed new tanks. The old ones were filled with a weak cement grout.

In all cases where new tanks are installed they are of much larger capacity than the old, a trend which is now evident everywhere.

General

It being the privilege of those about to retire to look back over the years, I may perhaps compare some aspects of public health work in Sidmouth today with those of thirty years ago. A small boundary revision brought me here in 1935, when a part of the Honiton Rural District was taken over, necessitating an increase in staff.

The most pressing work awaiting me was a slum clearance programme of seventy to eighty houses, which had become "bogged down." I got to know the old parts of the town fairly well in the ensuing twelve months when making house-to-house inspections, culminating in the demolition or closure of about seventy houses. The Inquiry, being the first of its kind in Sidmouth, caused a good deal of interest, and I learned a few things also, as the barrister representing the owners happened to be the author of the standard housing text book which was on my bookshelf.

Infectious diseases also played a large part in my work, necessitating visits, enquiries and disinfections. There were many serious cases in those days. Modern drugs and inoculations, however, have drastically reduced the menace of infectious disease, but if some of the young "Mums" who cannot be bothered to take their children for their "dose" had seen children with diphtheria, they would not tarry.

I note that in the returns for 1936 there was a case of enteric fever. Cases of both typhoid and paratyphoid cropped up too frequently and were "straws in the wind", although it was not until some fifteen years later that, with the aid of the Public Health Laboratory Service, we were able to track down the source of the infection and "block" it. This work incidentally became widely known in public health circles, though not in Sidmouth. Up to that time there was no Public Health Laboratory Service, with its opportunity for field work, only the County Laboratory, so events had to wait on time. I remember on two occasions about that time being recalled from conferences because of enteric cases: a fact which reflected the concern felt by the Council. It is not a nice feeling to know that you may be sitting on a volcano but can do little until it erupts!

The "backyard" slaughterhouses were with us then, as they still are in many places, and part of my time was spent on meat inspection. The following extract from the Annual Report for 1936 shows what the Medical Officer and myself thought of them : "The slaughterhouses that are now existent mainly in the densest part of the town are a relic of the days when they supplied the wants of a very modest resident population attracted to the neighbourhood of a fishing village. Despite the fact that in some of them the standard of maintenance is exemplary, nevertheless their presence in the town is regarded by large numbers of ratepayers and visitors alike as an intolerable nuisance. Only the enactment of fresh legislation can improve matters" In fact, the onset of the war a few years later closed all nine of the slaughterhouses under the rationing scheme, although we still had a "battle" to prevent some re-opening after the war.

There was no food hygiene legislation, and control over food premises was very limited. A typical instance of "control" of food premises was the requirement that bakehouses had to be lime-washed every fourteen months, and—apart from "unsound" food or gross contamination—there was little real control over premises. Protective clothing was not worn regularly by food handlers; but occasionally, for a special occasion such as Christmas, the staff "decked out" in their finery to have their photographs taken. There were no refrigerated food cabinets, laminated plastic surfaces, or other aids to good food hygiene, and most of the packaging which is now taken for granted was scarcely thought of in those days. Nevertheless, in case the picture begins to look too black, there were many people in the food trade who kept first-class premises and understood the basic needs of good personal hygiene, an elementary fact which has still to be driven home and is not yet assimilated by many food handlers.

Mainly due to the taking in of rural areas following the boundary revision, some seventy farms had to be visited under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, and regular milk sampling was carried out for both bacteriological standards and T.B. Trying to improve conditions at source was an uphill job, but there were a number of producers whose standard was high, and certainly progress was made. The producer/retailer selling his raw milk was a common sight. Twenty-four retailers were registered in 1936, but only two of these were T.T. producers. Very little pasteurised milk was sold in the town until a group of producer/retailers set up their own pasteurising plant at the end of the war, but prejudice against pasteurised milk was still strong. One Councillor informed me quite seriously about this time that it was "impossible to make coffee with the stuff"! A great step forward was taken when the Ministry of Agriculture started the tuberculosis eradication scheme after the war.

Brucellosis, or undulant fever as it was then called, was a problem then as now, and I recall a certain Medical Officer of Health in 1935 trying to get the Ministry of Health to make it a notifiable disease, but the Ministry pointed out that as ninety per cent of the herds in the country were affected that was not possible. The Chairman of the Medical Officer's Public Health Committee, who happened to be in the milk trade, received the news with equanimity. It seems that eradication is going to be a long process.

These are some random thoughts on one or two phases of public health which give only a brief glimpse of changes that have occurred during this period. The way of life, of course, has changed; in those days it was more leisurely and many hotel guests paraded the Esplanade after dinner in evening dress, and the motor car had not intruded on our lives to the extent that it has today.

The following factual comparisons may be of interest—

	1936		1966
Population	8,179	Population	11,460
*Number of <i>inhabited</i> houses	2,402	*Number of <i>habitable</i> houses	4,596
Rateable value	£84,762	Rateable value ...	£617,654
Sum represented by penny rate	£345	Sum represented by penny rate	£2,441

*It will be noted that the 1936 Report referred to “inhabited” houses, whereas the 1966 Report shows the number of “habitable” houses—two different things. The number of persons per house, making allowance for voids, shows a reduction per house from 3.4 (approximately) in 1936 to 2.6 (approximately) in 1966.

S. T. CHARD,
Public Health Inspector.

APPENDIX 'A'

PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

Salcombe Regis—

Properties connected to spring	8
--------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Harcombe—

Properties connected to main village supply	...	...	...	8
Other small supplies or wells	...	...	...	10

Fortescue—

Properties connected	39
----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Other properties in outlying areas

with own private supplies	76
---------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Total ... 141

APPENDIX 'B'

NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES AND VISITS—1966

Type of Premises	Number of premises	Number of visits
Licensed Hotels	15	16
Private Hotels	30	7
Guest Houses	47	4
Restaurants and Cafes	21	58
Fish and Chip Shops	2	5
Butchers	13	22
Bakers and Confectioners	8	12
Fishmongers	3	6
Grocers and General Provisions	28*	58
Greengrocers	9	10
School Canteens and Boarding Schools	5	—
Mobile Shops	4	10
Public Houses		
(excluding Hotels with licences) ...	16	4
Market (Butcher : two Greengrocers) ...	3†	15

* Includes five registered as dairies.

† Stalls.

UNSOUND FOOD—1966

Examined & Condemned on Voluntary Surrender for Destruction

(a) Meat at Retail Shops ... ..	...	...	...	15
(b) Cooked Meat and Meat Products ... ..	...	...	...	110
(c) Canned Meats ... ..	...	...	...	73
(d) Fish ... ..	...	...	...	203
(e) Fruit and Vegetables ... ..	...	...	...	459
(f) Other Foods ... ..	...	...	...	102

APPENDIX 'C'

HOUSING

(1) IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(The summaries show the progress made from 1959, when the Standard Grant scheme started, to 31st December, 1966)

(a) DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Applications, Approvals, and Grants paid
under Section 30 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958

Year	Applications		Dwellings Completed		Grants Paid
	Received	Approved	Completed		£
1959—61	22	19	20		5,190
1962	13	13	8		2,388
1963	4	6	7		2,616
1964	11	11	14		4,534
1965	6	6	8		2,651
1966	6	4	6		1,995
Totals	62	59	53		£19,374

Modernisation of Council Houses

Improvements completed at 31st December, 1966

Location	Number of Houses			
Sid Park Road	30
Arcot Park	12
				42

(b) STANDARD GRANTS

Applications, Approvals and Grants Paid under
the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959

Year	Applications			Dwellings Completed						Grants Paid
	Received	Approved	Completed	Fixed Bath	Wash-hand Basin	Hot Water	Water Closet	Food Storage		£
1959—61	48	48	36	33	36	35	11	14		3,249
1962	17	11	7	7	7	6	6	5		902
1963	19	16	18	16	16	16	9	8		1,570
1964	10	8	13	7	11	11	9	7		1,104
1965	15	16	10	9	10	10	7	7		1,104
1966	6	5	7	6	6	7	5	4		758
Totals	115	104	91	78	86	85	47	45		£8,687

(2) BUILDING PROGRAMME

Rate of Building and Conversions—1957/66

Year	By Local Authority	By Others	Totals	Grand Total
1957	Houses 6	14	20	
	Bungalows —	53	53	
	Conversions —	13	13	86
1958	Houses —	12	12	
	Bungalows —	49	49	
	Conversions —	11	11	72
1959	Houses 24 (Flats)	34 (21 Flats)	58	
	Bungalows —	52	52	
	Conversions —	4	4	114
1960	Houses —	35 (21 Flats)	35	
	Bungalows —	42	42	
	Conversions —	10	10	87
1961	Houses 18 (Flats)	23	41	
	Bungalows —	52	52	
	Conversions —	8	8	101
1962	Houses 76 (6 Flats)	32 (4 Flats)	108	
	Bungalows —	60	60	
	Conversions —	9	9	177
1963	Houses 9 (9 Flats)	9 (1 Flat)	18	
	Bungalows —	46	46	
	Conversions —	12	12	76
1964	Houses 8 (8 Flats)	12	20	
	Bungalows —	63	63	
	Conversions —	26	26	109
1965	Houses 4 (4 Flats)	23 (14 Flats)	27	
	Bungalows —	112	112	
	Conversions —	7	7	146
1966	Houses 6 (4 Flats)	18 (10 Flats)	24	
	Bungalows —	92	92	
	Conversions —	—	—	116
Totals	Houses 151	212	363	
	Bungalows —	621	621	
	Conversions —	100	100	1,084

Houses include flats where they are
new erections; otherwise flats are
included under conversions.

APPENDIX 'D'

THE OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

(a) Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Total Number of Premises registered at 31.12.1966	Number of Registered Premises receiving first general inspection 1966
Offices	50	10
Retail shops	117	2
Wholesale shops, Warehouses ...	1	—
Catering establishments open to public, Canteens ...	17	3
Fuel Storage Depots	1	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals ...	186	15
	<hr/>	<hr/>

(b) Number of Visits of all kinds 179

(c) Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	218
Retail shops	484
Wholesale departments, Warehouses	15
Catering establishments open to the public	110
Canteens	—
Fuel storage depots	12
	<hr/>
Total ...	839*
	<hr/>

*Males—314 : Females—525

APPENDIX 'E'

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

(a) Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prose- cuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are en- forced by Local Authorities	19	10	—	—
(2) Factories not in- cluded in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	42	16	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	61	26	—	—

(b) Cases in which defects were found—nil.

HONITON RURAL DISTRICT

Area	61,260 acres
Population	7,160
Number of Parishes	22
Rateable Value	£167,425
Penny Rate produces	£651
General Rate levied	9/6d.

Deaths

1965	39 males, 40 females	79
	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	11.1
	Comparability factor	0.93
	Standardised death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	10.3
1966	44 males, 30 females	74
	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	10.3
	Comparability factor	0.93
	Standardised death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	9.6

Live Births

1965	58 males, 63 females	121
	7 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of	121
	Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	17.0
	Comparability factor	1.17
	Standardised birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	19.9
	Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	5.8
1966	62 males, 50 females	112
	6 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of	112
	Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	15.6
	Comparability factor	1.17
	Standardised birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	18.3
	Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	5.4

Still Births

1965	1 still birth was registered	1
	Total live and still births	122
	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	8.2
1966	1 still birth was registered	1
	Total live and still births	113
	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	8.8

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

1965	0 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate) ...	0
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	nil
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	nil
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	nil
1966	0 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate) ...	0
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	nil
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	nil
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	nil

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1965	0 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate) ...	0
	Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	nil
	Maternal deaths ...	nil
1966	0 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate) ...	0
	Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	nil
	Maternal deaths ...	nil

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age

1965	0 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate) ...	0
	Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	nil
	Peri-natal mortality rate ...	8.3
1966	0 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate) ...	0
	Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	nil
	Peri-natal mortality rate ...	8.8

Deaths

The chief causes of death were :						1965	1966
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	3	0
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	0	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	8	12
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	12	10
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	13	14
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	7	8
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	7	3
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	8	7
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
						79	74

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector

Water Supplies

Public

During the year the East Devon Water Board laid 4in. mains in connection with the housing development at Feniton Gardens and carried out routine maintenance on its mains in the remainder of the district, including repairing bursts and re-servicing where necessary.

An agricultural extension of 1,640 yds. of main to Lower Weaver, Plymtree, is planned for execution in 1967.

The mains supply has been sampled regularly and the results were satisfactory.

Private

Fifteen bacteriological samples were taken from seven supplies and two were satisfactory. Advice was given to improve the unsatisfactory sources.

The well serving two Council houses at Dunkeswell Abbey was among those sampled and found unsatisfactory. Here the pollution was so great that in spite of exhaustive enquiries to the many water purification firms both chemical and electrolytic no satisfactory system could be suggested that would make this water both fit and palatable. Alternative supplies were investigated without success and now a borehole is planned.

Sewage Disposal

No new sewerage schemes have received the Minister's approval, though the need for these schemes is continually growing.

An addition to the Sidmouth Junction scheme of a length of gravity sewer crossing the railway to serve Feniton Gardens has been agreed, the developer to bear the extra cost.

A 3in. diaphragm trailer pump acquired during the year has considerably speeded up the maintenance pumping of the existing Works.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Once again I have to report that the refuse collection arrangements functioned smoothly within their limits but with the steady influx of people from towns, complaints of the twice-monthly frequency have mounted. Branscombe received its extra collection during the holiday season, but while these collections are necessary it becomes increasingly difficult to defend this policy to, for instance, hoteliers and cafe proprietors outside this parish.

Due to the pressure upon the refuse lorry, the twice-weekly litter bin clearance was again carried out by the sewage attendants with their Land Rover and refuse trailer under the auspices of the County Council and the benefits of this service are apparent as the lay-byes of the trunk roads seems to be cleaner now than they have been for many years.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

There were no changes in the six entries in the register.

Factories Act, 1961

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Notices
Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 (without power)	8	6	—
Section 7 (with power)	19	10	—
Other Premises (Section 7) including building sites	14	22	—
	<hr/> 41	<hr/> 38	<hr/> —

Offices, Shops and Railways Premises Act, 1963

	No. of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	—	1	1
Retail Shops	—	2	2
Wholesale shops, warehouses ...	—	—	—
Bakery establishments open to the public, Canteens	—	12	9
Fuel storage depots ...	—	—	—
	<hr/> —	<hr/> 15	<hr/> 12

Analysis of persons employed in registered premises or workplace—

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	2
Retails shops	5
Wholesale departments, warehouses	
Catering Establishments open to the public ...	68
Canteens	—
Fuel storage depots	—
	<hr/>
Total	75
	<hr/>
Total Males	26
	<hr/>
Total Females	49

Housing Act, 1957

Detailed inspections were made of six dwellings and formal proceedings were taken in respect of three of them at Southleigh, Upottery and Talaton.

Thirty dwellings were repaired following informal action, and four were demolished.

Housing

Thirty-three dwellings were completed by private developers.

The programme for the provision of old people's bungalows in small numbers in various parishes continued, and during the year four were completed at Wilmington, six at Talaton, and two at Broadhembury and Cotleigh were begun.

Minor problems have arisen with these bungalows when occupied, but generally the appreciation by the occupants of these standard designs has been extremely gratifying.

Improvement Grants

Discretionary Grants for four houses, totalling £1,572 were paid.

Standard Grants for fourteen houses, totalling £2,495, were paid.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949—Rodent Control

Routine inspections of dwellings, farms and sewers were carried out by the part-time rodent operator, and all discovered and reported infestations were dealt with.

Petroleum

One new storage installation for petroleum at Talaton was tested and approved for licensing.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Fifteen inspections of food premises were made and minor contraventions were dealt with informally.

The twenty-two shops registered for the sale of ice-cream were checked and compliance with the relevant regulations ensured.

The only knacker's yard was inspected and approved.

The following food was voluntarily surrendered and disposed of—

1 smoked gammon — cyst.

This case was reported to the neighbouring authority in whose area the meat was originally bought and the appropriate enquiries were made.

Fireworks

Three shops were inspected and registered for the storage and sale of explosives.

Nuisances

Thirty-two visits in connection with twenty-one nuisances were made, these nuisances included housing defects, drains, offensive accumulations and pigs.

Caravans and Camping

The annual Planning Survey of caravans was again carried out and routine inspections of existing sites were made to check compliance with their site licences.

Agreement was reached with the Caravan Club to establish a 50 touring van site at Putts Corner, Gittisham, and in this matter I have worked in close liaison with the officers of Sidmouth Urban District Council in whose area the lower part of this site will be. It is hoped that the establishment of this site will help to solve the problems associated with fly-parking of caravans along the trunk roads.

J. D. HOPGOOD,
Public Health Inspector.

HONITON BOROUGH

Area	3,125 acres
Population	5,110
Rateable Value	£188,706
Penny Rate produces	£750
General Rate levied	12s.

Deaths

1965	33 males, 35 females	68
	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	15.7
	Comparability factor	0.51
	Standardised death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	8.0
1966	41 males, 38 females	79
	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	15.5
	Comparability factor	0.56
	Standardised death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	8.7

Live Births

1965	44 males, 37 females	81
	8 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of	81
	Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	18.75
	Comparability factor	1.08
	Standardised birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	20.2
	Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births ...	9.9
1966	43 males, 42 females	85
	4 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of	85
	Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	16.6
	Comparability factor	1.08
	Standardised birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	17.9
	Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births ...	4.7

Still Births

1965	2 still births were registered	2
	Total live and still births	83
	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	24.1
1966	1 still birth was registered	1
	Total live and still births	86
	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	11.6

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

1965	1 death was registered (0 illegitimate)	1
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	12.3
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	13.7
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	nil
1966	2 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	2
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	23.5
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	24.7
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	nil

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1965	1 death was registered	1
	Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	12.3
	Maternal deaths	nil
1966	1 death was registered	1
	Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	11.8
	Maternal deaths	nil

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age

1965	1 death was registered	1
	Early neo-natal mortality rate	12.3
	Peri-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	37.0
1966	1 death was registered	1
	Early neo-natal mortality rate	11.8
	Peri-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	23.3

Deaths

The chief causes of death were:

	1965	1966
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	7
Vascular lesions of nervous system	16	23
Coronary disease, angina	14	9
Hypertension with heart disease	0	1
Other heart disease	6	8
Other circulatory disease	5	6
Influenza	0	1
Pneumonia	1	3
Bronchitis	2	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2
Congenital malformations	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	12
Motor vehicle accidents	3	0
Suicide	1	0
Homicide and operations of war	0	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	68	79
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector
Housing

Slum Clearance

During the year considerable attention has been given to unfit property in the town, which has resulted in—

- (a) 125 visits being made to various properties in the borough;
- (b) 12 houses being closed;
- (c) 4 “Time and Place” notices being served;
- (d) 2 agreements being received not to re-let premises;
- (e) 6 houses being demolished.

The department has continued to inspect houses in the borough generally and in particular where applications for Council houses are made. A large number of houses have therefore been inspected.

The usual informal action has been taken during the year and in many instances this has resulted in improved housing conditions.

Much of the preliminary and routine work necessary to determine clearance areas has been carried out in respect of two different sites in the town affecting 28 properties. Representations will be made to the Council in the coming year.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

No action has been necessary this year.

Council House Inspection

Inspections were made of all the Council houses in the borough. In general a high standard was revealed.

Mortgage Facilities and Improvement Grants

Only one application for an improvement grant was received. The Council has continued to offer mortgage facilities and set out below is a table showing grants and mortgage facilities provided during the past twelve months. A sample ten houses where the Council have given mortgage facilities were inspected and in one case only was any action necessary.

	Number of applications	Number approved	Number refused	Value approved
Standard Grants ...	1	1	—	£145
Discretionary Grants	—	—	—	—
Loan on Repairs ...	2	1	1	£300
Mortgages for House Purchase	8	6	2	£13,390

Rent Act, 1957

No applications were received during the year.

Housing generally

The standard of housing accommodation in the borough continues to improve year by year. The Borough Council is continuing with a very active programme for the provision of Council houses, and it is pleasing to note that three private enterprise companies are building houses for sale in the borough. From enquiries made at the office, it would seem that the rate of house building in Honiton is likely, if not to accelerate, at least to continue at its present rate.

Caravans and Camping

As one of the two licences in force within the borough is for a residential site for 58 caravans, this section of the report is included under "Housing". The other licence is for a Holiday Site for 38 caravans and/or tents. Both licences are held by one person and in respect of one farm.

The residential site is still being improved or brought up to the standard required by the conditions attached to the Site Licence. I feel the site is of quite a good standard, and this is in no small measure due to the efforts of the occupiers of the caravans who have laid out gardens or erected fences. Nevertheless I feel the time has come when we must insist on all the conditions of the Site Licence being complied with. The Holiday Site, which is visited regularly during the season, is generally satisfactory but again I feel all the conditions of the Site Licence should now be complied with.

General

During the course of the year numerous visits have been made to a wide variety of premises and when found necessary informal action has been taken. It has been unnecessary to take any formal action. With the constant introduction of new legislation, when a visit is made to premises the opportunity is often taken of dealing with the premises from many and varying aspects. For this reason, in my opinion, tables of numbers of inspections and types of inspections are of little value.

Water Supply

The quality, quantity and mains pressure have all been satisfactory during the year. The East Devon Water Board have taken regular samples and these have always been made available to me for inspection.

Bathing Facilities

The long awaited new swimming pool came into operation during the past summer. It was used by many hundreds of people and proved of tremendous importance and value to the town. It gave the opportunity to many hundreds of school children to learn to swim and also to enjoy the recreational aspect of the pool. In addition the use by the general public was considerable, and there were many users from the Military Camp at Heathfield. The fact that with modern methods of water purification people can now swim with safety in Honiton, must be a considerable asset to the town.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During the year the modernisation and enlargement of the Sewage Works was completed. Early samples taken by the Devon Rivers Authority showed that the effluent was just outside the standard set by the Royal Commission, but more recent samples show that we are now discharging a satisfactory effluent into the River Otter.

We have experienced some teething troubles with the new Works, especially with the sludge drying plant, but it would seem that these troubles are gradually disappearing and the one factor which remains to be solved is the question of the drying of humus sludge. We seem to be drying our primary sludge quite satisfactorily in the Paxman Sludge Concentrator, but it does not seem capable of—nor do I think it was designed for—dealing with humus sludge, and further discussions must take place between the Council and the Consulting Engineers to decide how we are going to dispose of humus sludge. At present two temporary lagoons have been dug, but this cannot be considered very satisfactory and must be only a short-term measure. With the present rate of growth of the town it may well be that we did not set our sights high enough when deciding a population figure of six and a half thousand people. It also seems that the design flow of three hundred and ten thousand gallons is insufficient. It is probable that we shall have to consider at a very early date the introduction of new main trunk sewers using the old existing sewers for surface water purposes, and also perhaps a further enlargement of the Works if the present rate of growth of the town continues.

Public Conveniences

The Public Conveniences have been maintained satisfactorily during the past twelve months. Since the introduction of the bypass it is interesting to note that the Finance Department record that the “takings” have dropped.

Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957

No Licences are in force.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The arrangements for refuse collection and disposal continue to be most satisfactory. We dispose of our refuse at the Sidmouth Urban District Council tip at Knapp Copse in return for a rent. With the constant growth of the town the number of "man hours" used for refuse collection is increasing steadily. Following the comprehensive survey and study of refuse collection made by the department last year, some minor alterations to the collection service have been made. The compression type lorry which we are using at present is giving very good service but if the growth of the town continues at its present rate it may well be that we shall have to consider the purchase of a continuous loading type lorry. However, I think the first step to take will be to increase the number of loaders, and I would anticipate any decision as to the replacement of the existing lorry could perhaps be deferred for two years.

Factories Act, 1961

Premises	Number registered	Number of Inspections	Number of notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	5	5	nil
Factories not included in the above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	39	24	nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	nil	nil	nil

Number of cases in which defects were found:

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not includ- ing offences relat- ing to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	7	4	—	—	—

Sections 133 and 134—Outworkers

Nature of work	Section 133 No. of out- workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Section 134 Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecu- tions
Wearing apparel	1	—	—	—	—	—
Making nets, other than wire	—	—	—	—	—	—

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

No applications for exemptions were received. The table set out below shows the number of inspections, visits, etc. made by the department.

Table A.—Registrations and General Inspections

	Totals	1	82	21
Offices	—	24	—	
Retail Shops	1	51	15	
Wholesale shops, warehouses ...	—	1	—	
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	—	6	6	
Fuel storage depots	—	—	—	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
Class of premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year	

Table B.—Number of visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises—21.

Table C.—Analysis of persons employed in registered premises or workplace.

Class of workplace (1)	No. of persons employed (2)
Offices	114
Retail shops	231
Wholesale departments, warehouses	38
Catering establishments open to the public	56
Canteens	—
Fuel storage depots	—
Total	439
Total Males	194
Total Females	245

It has not been necessary to ask the Council to take any formal action, and generally where premises do not comply they are gradually being brought up to standard. I feel this is the policy which should be adopted, and I am confident that within a period of two or three years most, if not all, of the premises within the borough will comply with the requirements of the Act.

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

The number of farms in the borough remains at 33.

No cases are known where the Act is not being complied with.

Petroleum

All previously licensed premises were re-licensed. Periodical inspections are being made and in all instances, as far as the department is aware, the Model Code is being complied with.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The Council continues to employ a part-time rodent operator. Seven complaints were received and five premises were found to be infested with rats during the year. In each instance the premises were treated on a re-chargeable basis. Two premises were inspected by the operator where no infestations were found and seventy-nine inspections were made by the department. Generally speaking the town is remarkably free from rats.

The town sewers were test-baited and the level of infestation was similar to the previous year. Where an infestation was found treatments were immediately carried out.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

During the past year all catering premises and shops selling meat and dairy products were visited by the department. No formal action was taken but as a result of representations the occupiers of a number of premises carried out considerable works of improvement. These included—

- (a) Two premises registered in connection with the manufacture of meat pasties and sausage rolls.
- (b) Two premises registered in connection with fish frying.
- (c) One transport cafe.
- (d) Two restaurants.

Five premises selling ice-cream changed hands and the necessary alterations were made in the registers. Five premises ceased to sell ice-cream.

An effort has been made during the year to ensure that all premises that should be registered for the sale of ice-cream, sausages, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved foods, are brought up to date, and the register now shows the following premises registered—

24 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream.

12 premises registered for the preparation or for the manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved foods.

There are no Egg Pasteurisation plants in the borough. Again there has been no food poisoning outbreaks reported; and occupiers of food premises have continued with the arrangement that they report all suspected unsound foods to this department. This has resulted in a total of 60lbs. of unsound food being voluntarily surrendered.

Meat Inspection

The department continues to provide a meat inspection service in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, the Council continuing to impose the maximum charge permitted by the Ministry. During the year the major slaughterhouse of the town, that of Messrs. C. H. Baker & Sons, has received much attention from the department, and, in fact, Mr. Baker has carried out some considerable improvements during the course of the year and has promised that he will submit detailed plans and drawings to the Council for the provision of improved lairage, etc., at the slaughterhouse for the coming year.

I set out hereunder the usual table showing the number of animals passing through the slaughterhouses in the town, together with the instances of disease—

Table of Kill figures, Inspection figures and Unsound Meat

		Cattle	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep and lambs
Number killed ...	...	2,731	276	98	10,058	14,493
Number inspected	...	2,731	276	98	10,058	14,493

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis

Whole carcasses						
condemned ..	...	4	40	14	51	96
Carcases of which some						
part or organ was						
condemned	...	212	65	5	771	749
Percentage of the num-						
ber inspected affec-						
ted with a disease						
other than Tuber-						
culosis and Cysticer-						
cosis	... ..	18%	14.5%	14.5%	7.8%	5.8%

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses						
condemned	...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some						
part or organ was						
condemned	...	—	—	—	43	—
Percentage of the num-						
ber inspected affec-						
ted with Tuber-						
culosis	—	—	—	0.4%	—

Cysticercosis only

Localised	7	—	—	—	—
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The following meat and offal was voluntarily surrendered from the two slaughterhouses—

					Meat	Offal
Cattle (except cows)	...	...			1,121 lbs.	1,797 lbs.
Cows	...	...	...	...	17,741 lbs.	1,770 lbs.
Calves	...	...	...	...	985 lbs.	76 lbs.
Pigs	...	...	...	...	6,803 lbs.	3,450 lbs.
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...		4,352 lbs.	2,600 lbs.
				Totals	31,002 lbs.	9,693 lbs.

Total Carcase Meat condemned 13.9 tons

Total Offal condemned 4.5 tons

From these tables it will be seen that—

- (a) There has been a 25% increase in the number of sheep and a 10% increase in the number of pigs slaughtered.
- (b) The percentage of whole carcases condemned is Cattle 0.12%; Cows 14%; Pigs 0.5%; Sheep 0.66%. The high figure for cows reflects the number of casualty animals dealt with in this category.
- (c) The main conditions requiring the condemnation of offal were parasitic infections and abscesses.
- (d) Tuberculosis lesions were confined to pigs, and usually involved only the head. Avian tuberculosis was usually suspected and this would imply that pigs and poultry were not being separated on some premises.

Conclusion

During the year Mr. Linfoot joined the department, and I would like to express my thanks both to Mr. Humphreys and to Mr. Linfoot for the assistance they have given me during the year.

A. J. C. NEX,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

OTTERY ST. MARY URBAN DISTRICT

Area	10,008 acres
Population	4,800
Rateable Value	£172,401
Penny Rate produces	£673
General Rate levied	10/6d.

Deaths

1965	32 males, 33 females	65
	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.9
	Comparability factor	0.66
	Standardised death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	9.2
1966	24 males, 30 females	54
	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	11.25
	Comparability factor	0.65
	Standardised death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	7.3

Live Births

1965	28 males, 35 females	63
	2 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of	63
	Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.4
	Comparability factor	1.37
	Standardised birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	18.4
	Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births ...	3.2
1966	34 males, 27 females	61
	1 illegitimate birth was registered and is included in the above total of	61
	Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	12.7
	Comparability factor	1.37
	Standardised birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	17.4
	Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births ...	1.6

Still Births

1965	0 still births were registered	0
	Total live and still births	63
	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	nil
1966	2 still births were registered	2
	Total live and still births	63
	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	31.7

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

1965	0 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	0
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	nil
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	nil
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	nil
1966	1 death was registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	1
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	16.4
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	16.7
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	nil

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1965	0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	0
	Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	nil
	Maternal deaths	...	...	...	nil
1966	0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	0
	Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	nil
	Maternal deaths	...	...	...	nil

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age

1965	0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	0
	Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	nil
	Peri-natal mortality rate	...	...	...	nil
1966	0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	0
	Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	nil
	Peri-natal mortality rate	...	...	...	31.7

Deaths

The chief causes of death were:					1965	1966
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	1	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	0	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	9	8
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	10	8
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	18	11
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	2	1
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	2	4
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	4	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	0	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	7	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	1	1
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	3	4
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	1	1
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	3	0
Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	1
					65	54

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector

Water Supply

Negotiations proceeded during the year for the amalgamation of the East Devon Water Board with the contiguous Water Undertakings including Exeter City, Exmouth Urban District and the St. Thomas Rural District.

Apart from a few isolated complaints of a disagreeable taste of the mains water supply, the Board have continued to provide an adequate, pure, wholesome and satisfactory supply. No occasions have arisen in the Ottery St. Mary Urban District to necessitate the curtailment or rationing of supply, and all demands have been met.

Extensions and renewals to the water mains have been carried out as and where required including those to new housing estates and to the new individual dwellings.

The Council Housing Estates situate at Alfington (10 dwellings) and Taleford (12 dwellings) continue to be supplied by the two boreholes. It is anticipated, however, that sooner or later these will be abandoned and the houses concerned connected direct to the mains public supply. As a matter of fact the new dwellings at Taleford, consisting of one three-bedroom, two two-bedroom, and four single units, are connected to the mains public supply.

Approximate number of dwellings within the Urban District:

Supplied by mains water	...	...	1,605
Estimated population	...	...	4,202
Supplied by private wells or springs			246
Estimated population	...	...	599

Bacteriological Examination

Eight water samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for Bacteriological Examination. Three samples taken of the public mains supply of the East Devon Water Board were reported as being entirely satisfactory, as also were the reports on the samples taken from the boreholes at Taleford (1) and Patteson Close, Alfington (2). The remaining two samples were taken from a private well supplying drinking water to an unlicensed camping site. One of the samples taken showed evidence of slight contamination; the other was reported as being satisfactory. The camping site has now been abandoned following enforcement action by the Planning Authority.

Sewage Disposal

As indicated in the Annual Report of 1965, the residential development now taking place within the Urban District, particularly in the Town Area and West Hill, has made it necessary to give urgent consideration to the provision of additional sewers and sewage disposal facilities. The Council's Consulting Engineers have now been given instructions to explore the possibility of laying a sewer in the Gerway Valley, situate at the south of the town; this valley sewer to link up with the West Hill scheme, and any excess flow which may enter the town sewage disposal works to be diverted to the proposed new works at Fluxton.

The construction of the proposed West Hill Sewerage Scheme now seems likely to proceed. It is anticipated that tenders for the work will be submitted for consideration during the latter part of 1967 and the selected contractor able to start work early 1968. The present rate of development in the West Hill area prompts the remark—the sooner the better!

Once again reference must be made to the unsatisfactory sewage disposal facilities in the village of Alfington. The Council have now decided to give some priority for a sewerage scheme to serve the village, and accordingly their Consulting Engineers have been instructed to make the necessary surveys and prepare a sewerage scheme for this part of the Urban District.

Refuse Disposal

A scheme for the collection of Trade Refuse was inaugurated during the year and arrangements were made for each trader concerned to pay 26s. per annum for each bin collected in excess of the one allowed for the disposal of domestic refuse. Formal Agreements were entered into with the occupiers of the premises and the scheme has worked satisfactorily.

The weekly collection of household refuse in the Town Area, and the fortnightly collection in the rural parts of the district, have been carried out satisfactorily during the year.

The disposal of refuse by partly controlled tipping at the Chinway Refuse Tip was considered satisfactory. Fires on the tip face have occurred on several occasions and since these have happened during the period of school holidays it is assumed that children have been the main cause of the trouble.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949—Rodent Control

The twelve areas into which the Urban District is divided were surveyed as usual during the year and it is evident that there is no measurable increase in the rat population. A few minor complaints of isolated rat infestation were made within the Town Area, and this was no doubt due to the disturbance of their habitat by building operations. A token baiting of the Town sewers revealed no infestation in the sewerage system.

Factories Act, 1961

Inspection of Factories and Workshops

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Formal Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	1	2	—
Factories not included in above, in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	25	94	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority, Building Sites, etc.	33	66	—
	<hr/> 59	<hr/> 162	<hr/> —

Defects found and remedied by informal action—

Want of cleanliness	2
Inadequate washing facilities	1
Unsuitable and/or defective sanitary conveniences	4
	<hr/>
Total ...	7

Housing

Number of dwellings erected—

By Local Authority	4
By other bodies or persons	95
	<hr/>
	99

Five old cottages which were scheduled to be dealt with in a Clearance Area were demolished by the new owner who purchased the property with that intention.

Standard Grants

Number of dwellings improved	9
Owner/occupier	3
Tenanted	6
Total amount paid in grants	£1,154

The Council adhered to their previous decision to refuse to adopt the provision of the Housing Acts dealing with Discretionary Grants.

Slum Clearance

No formal action was taken during the year in respect of Slum Clearance. It is anticipated that a small area holding six dwellings, and which would have been included in a Clearance Area, will now be dealt with by negotiation. The site has been acquired by a local industrial firm, presumably with the intention of demolishing the dwellings and clearing the site to make way for a factory extension.

Offices, Shops and Railways Premises Act, 1963

Inspection of Offices and Shops

Routine inspections of all the premises concerned were made during the year. There was only one new registration, and the following table gives details as to number of registered premises and visits.

Class of premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises inspected
Offices	1	17	17
Retail shops	—	29	29
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	—	3	3
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens	—	7	7
	<hr/> 1 <hr/>	<hr/> 56 <hr/>	<hr/> 56 <hr/>

Numbers of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises—179.

Analysis of persons employed in registered premises—

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	52
Retail shops	99
Wholesale departments, Warehouses	9
Catering establishments open to the public	28
Canteens	—
Fuel storage depots	—
Total	<hr/> 188 <hr/>
Total Males	<hr/> 70 <hr/>
Total Females	<hr/> 118 <hr/>

Slaughterhouses

There was no change of note in the three small private slaughterhouses situate in the Town Area.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Meat Inspection

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part—

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number killed	607	21	2,090	1,168
Number inspected	607	21	2,090	1,168

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis—

Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	74	1	132	74
Percentage of the num- ber affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	12.19%	4.76%	6.32%	6.34%

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	18
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affec- ted with Tuber- culosis	—	—	—	1.54%

Cysticercosis

Localised	2	—	—	—
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Condemnations—

					lbs. wt.
Beef including offal	651
Mutton and lamb	252
Pork	383
Veal	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous (tinned fruit, meat, etc.)	...	...	...	...	107
Total ...					1,396 lbs.

Control of Intensive Farming

Difficulty has been experienced during the year in controlling nuisances created by the intensive method now introduced by farmers for the production of eggs and poultry. Factory-like conditions, not envisaged a few years ago, now seem to be increasing and adequate control of the disposal of the resulting manurial products is practically impossible under present legislation. When these intensive operations are carried out near to residential properties the nuisance of flies and offensive smell can be very acute. Presumably under Planning Laws restrictions can only be imposed if the land is situate in an area of Special Control scheduled under Article 4, General Development Order, Town and Country Planning Act, 1963.

Food Preparing Establishments

Inspections of all the food preparing establishments were carried out during the year. In a few instances it was found necessary to bring to the notice of the proprietors concerned minor contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations. Modifications and improvements were effected by informal action.

Staff

The staffing position received a setback during the latter part of the year when Mr. R. Palfrey, General Clerk, left to take up a pupilage appointment with the Public Health Department of the Exeter City Council.

Mr. J. H. Mercer, Assistant Public Health Inspector, carried out his duties efficiently and expeditiously, being responsible for most of the day-to-day duties appertaining to Public Health and also the required inspections under the Building Regulations.

CHAS. WM. GLOVER,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

SEATON URBAN DISTRICT

Area	1,178 acres
Population	3,610
Rateable Value	£210,954
Penny Rate produces	£826
General Rate levied	11/5d.

Deaths

1965	39 males, 32 females	71
	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	19.7
	Comparability factor	0.48
	Standardised death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	9.4
1966	28 males, 49 females	77
	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	21.3
	Comparability factor	0.46
	Standardised death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	9.8

Live Births

1965	18 males, 20 females	38
	1 illegitimate birth was registered and is included in the above total of... ..	38
	Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	10.5
	Comparability factor	1.43
	Standardised birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	15.0
	Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births ...	2.6
1966	16 males, 13 females	29
	2 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of	29
	Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	8.0
	Comparability factor	1.43
	Standardised birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	11.5
	Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births ...	6.9

Still Births

1965	0 still births were registered	0
	Total live and still births	38
	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	nil
1966	0 still births were registered	0
	Total live and still births	29
	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	nil

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

1965	0 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	0
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	nil
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	nil
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	nil
1966	0 deaths were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	0
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	nil
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	nil
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	nil

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1965	0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	0
	Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	nil
	Maternal deaths	...	...	...	nil
1966	0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	0
	Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	nil
	Maternal deaths	...	...	...	nil

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age

1965	0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0
	Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	nil
	Peri-natal mortality rate	...	...	...	...	nil
1966	0 deaths were registered	...	...	...	...	0
	Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	nil
	Peri-natal mortality rate	...	...	...	...	nil

Deaths

The chief causes of death were :

	1965	1966
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	3	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	9
Diabetes	2	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	13
Coronary disease, angina	17	22
Hypertension with heart disease	1	0
Other heart disease	8	7
Other circulatory disease	3	3
Influenza	0	2
Pneumonia	3	2
Bronchitis	0	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	1
Accidents (other than motor vehicle accidents)	1	2
Suicide	0	1
	<hr/> 71	<hr/> 77

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector

The activities of the Public Health Inspector during 1966 were very limited. Up to the 1st of November the Inspector was also the Surveyor, and from then till the end of the year he was fully occupied in outstanding matters connected with the Surveyor's department. He is now part-time Public Health Inspector only, and therefore has the opportunity of carrying out his duties in that capacity.

Routine inspections were made whenever possible concurrent with the Surveyor's activities.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

No inspections were possible during 1966, but at the beginning of 1967 this work was resumed in earnest. There were 28 offices, 54 retail shops, 2 wholesale shops, 16 catering establishments, and one fuel storage depot on the register at the close of 1966. These businesses employed 171 males and 261 females.

Housing

During the year the balance of the Powell Close flats—i.e. 18 flats—were finished for the Council. Forty-six private dwellings were built, 6 flats were finished at Wessiters Close, and 31 flats at the Burrow—a total of 101 units of dwelling accommodation.

Unfit Properties

Action was taken in respect of one vacant house under Section 16 of the Housing Act of 1957. The owner was interviewed by the Committee and subsequently gave an undertaking not to re-let the dwelling until it was made fit. This was the position at the end of the year.

Water Supply

All premises in the Urban District have a piped supply of water from the East Devon Water Board. No samples were taken by the Local Authority.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

There is no change to report.

A Public Inquiry was held in January concerning a new scheme which, as a result, was approved. There are a few houses in the town outside the drainage area which houses are served by domestic sewage disposal units.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Refuse collection and disposal is under the control of the Surveyor, and continues as before reported.

Food Establishments and Cafes

Although the standard is generally very good it is intended that in the future more inspections will be made.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949—Rodent Control

The Rodent Operator treated 39 premises where rats were discovered. He also carried out the half-yearly treatment for rats in sewers.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

There were nine occasions when unsound food was voluntarily surrendered—only one case being the result of a complaint received. In six cases the food was tinned, and there was only one instance of unsound meat.

There are no slaughterhouses in use in the town. Three local butchers obtain their meat from outside Abattoirs.

Public Conveniences

New toilets were built and finished adjacent to the Town Hall in 1966, thus serving a need in the centre of the town. In addition the Council provided a "Rollalong" toilet unit on the Station Road Car Park.

Disinfestation

There was only one occasion when action had to be taken to deal with vermin; this was a family affected by body lice.

Caravans and Camping

A survey carried out at the beginning of August 1966 showed that there were in use—

- 9 residential caravans
- 98 static holiday caravans
- 23 tourist caravans
- 9 dormobiles
- 8 organised tents
- 175 casual tents
- 683 holiday chalets.

P. R. BRADLEY, A.R.S.H.,

Public Health Inspector.

